

***** T O P S E C R E T ***** COPY

ROUTINE

DE WTE #0628 0420003

R 111020Z FEB 76

FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 14//

TO PAUL BARBIAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

VIA BLACK PATCH WH00183

TOHAK 14

FEBRUARY 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

OPPOSITION TO PERON MOUNTINGS: OPPOSITION TO MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MOUNT AND THERE IS GROWING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF HER REPLACEMENT BY A MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THREE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR MRS. PERON TO RESIGN IN ORDER TO ALLOW A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS. LABOR LEADERS HAVE REACHED SUCH A POINT OF UNHAPPINESS THAT AN OPEN RUPTURE IS LIKELY SOON UNLESS MRS. PERON MOVES TO RESTORE LABOR'S INFLUENCE. LABOR LEADERS HAVE APPROACHED OFFICIALS OF OUR EMBASSY SEEKING THE U.S. REACTION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY TAKEOVER. FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEE HER OUSTED. THE LEADERS INDICATED LABOR WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO MOUNT TOKEN OPPOSITION TO A COUP BUT WOULD PROBABLY THEN COOPERATE WITH THE MILITARY IN DEFENSE OF TRADE UNIONISM. OUR EMBASSY EMPHASIZED OUR NONINVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL ARGENTINE AFFAIRS.

MILITARY LEADERS ALSO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING A MOVE AGAINST PRESIDENT PERON. [REDACTED] AN ATTEMPT IN THE FEBRUARY 16-EARLY MARCH PERIOD. WHILE PREVIOUS REPORTS HAVE PROVED UNFOUNDED, DISSATISFACTION WITH MRS. PERON IS NOW SO WIDESPREAD THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY LIKELY. (LOW)

0287

State Dept. review completed

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SEC FILE, SOG

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY